GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2859
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2007
INDIANS DETAINED IN UAE
Krishnadas Shri N.N.;Murmu Shri Rupchand;Veerendra Kumar Shri M.P.

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether hundreds of Indians were detained in UAE due to some labour problems recently and are waiting to return to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; (

(c) whether the Government of India has taken up the issue with the Government of UAE for their rescue; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) to (d): As per reports received from the CGI, Dubai, two instances occurred recently in Dubai, where workers, with majority of them being Indians, went on strike against their employers, in demand of increase of their wages etc. In first case, 4300 workers of M/s. Pauling Middle East Company went on strike on 28.10.2007 and were detained by police authorities. Out of these 4141 workers have been released and rejoined work. The remaining 159 workers, including 90 Indians, detained for indulging in violence by the local authorities, have since been deported. The Indian Mission officials were in constant touch with the UAE authorities for the release/return of the Indian workers.

In the 2nd case about 35000 workers of M/s. Arabtec Construction Company went on strike from 1.11.2007, most of whom have resumed work after the company announced increase in salary. Around 500 workers from various nationalities, including 230 Indians, who tried to stop others from going to work, were arrested. All the detained workers have been sent back to their respective countries. The Indian Mission in the UAE have taken up the issues of reasonable minimum wages and comprehensive medical insurance of Indian workers with the Government of UAE.